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Chairman's Report and Executive Director's Report: July 23, 1998

1. Call to Order/Attendance.

PAT: Call on DEBBY.

2. Public Comments.

PAT: This is the time set aside for public comments on items NOT on tonight's agenda.

3. Minutes of the May 28, 1998 Meeting.

[Need MOTION and SECOND; VOICE VOTE]

4. Chairman's Report.

PAT: The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 here in the Jean Harvie Community Center. Remember the November meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18 due to Thanksgiving.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The Pear Fair will be held in Courtland this Sunday, July 26. Debby Eddy is in charge of the Parade which starts at noon; Supervisor Mike McGowan will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Parade, with assistance from Margit Aramburu. Supervisor Nottoli will be in the Parade.

Also upcoming is the Catfish Jubilee in Walnut Grove on Sunday, August 30, featuring a day of music and fun.

Coming in September is Coastal Clean Up Day on September 19; there will be several clean up events in and around the Delta, and volunteers are always needed.

COMMISSION'S LEGISLATION: SB 1075, the legislation to extend the sunset date was taken off the Governor's desk to allow for possible changes to the language in the bill to clarify the Commission's role with CALFED. No discussions are ongoing; I will represent the Commission's views in any meetings that might be called on the legislation. Staff has not scheduled any Subcommittee meetings about the future in the Commission, and will not until the legislation has been signed by the Governor.

5. Attorney General's Report. NOTE: Dan Siegel is on vacation.

PAT: After the last meeting, the AG's office prepared the revised Waiver which includes the "ethical wall" provision. Because I was leaving on vacation, I asked Margit to sign on behalf of the Commission. A copy of the signed waiver was included in the mailing.

Call on CARLA CARUSO--substituting for Dan who is on vacation.

6. Executive Director's Report.

Upcoming Meetings:

North Delta National Wildlife Refuge: The Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled a public meeting to discuss their proposal to acquire lands and manage them as a National Wildlife Refuge. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ulatis Community Center in Vacaville. A memo was distributed at this meeting. Lands under consideration include: Yolo Bypass, Little Holland Tract, Liberty Island, Liberty Farms, Moore Tract, Hastings Tract, Prospect Island, and Upper and Lower Egbert Tracts. Flyer distributed at meeting.

CALFED Public Meetings in South Delta: CALFED has scheduled two meetings in the South Delta. The first will be on Monday, July 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Roberts Union Farm Center. A card with the schedule and directions was distributed at this meeting. A second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening September 9 in Stockton--details are not yet available. This will be in association with a Bay Delta Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for September 10 and 11 in Stockton.

San Francisco Estuary Project State of the Estuary Conference has been set for March 17, 18 and 19, 1999 in San Francisco.

Commission News:

New e-mail Address: The local phone service in the Delta is now providing Internet access which will not require a toll call to Sacramento or Elk Grove. We expect to save over \$150 to \$200 per month of our \$500 to \$600 phone bill. Our new e-mail address is: **Delta Protection Commission@citlink.net**
A memo has been included in your mailing packet.

Grants Information:

Prop 204 Delta Tributary Watershed Program Phase II: Applications are due to the State Water Resources Control Board by August 14. Phase II has \$4.3 million for rehabilitation projects in watersheds tributary to the Delta. Projects can include watershed rehabilitation plans, fisheries habitat restoration and reduction of contaminants in drinking water. Contact Jean Ladyman at the Board at (916) 657-0430 for more information.

Conservation Program of the Packard Foundation has announced a multi-year, 175 million dollar program called "Conserving California Landscapes". They have identified three key regions: Central Coast, Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. Within the Central Valley, they have identified: the Cosumnes River watershed, the foothills of the Mount Lassen area, San Luis Island grasslands and Oristamba Creek regions, and Key wetland, Riparian and agricultural land resources. Grants ideas can be discussed at any time with Michael Mantell, former Chief Deputy of Resources Agency, now working for the

California Environmental Trust, Consultant to the Foundation, at (916) 553-4533 (Beveridge and Diamond).

CALFED Meetings:

Lori Clamurro has attended: Ecosystem Restoration Work Group; Water Transfers Work Group, Assurances Work Group; Ecosystem Roundtable, Storage and Conveyance Quarterly Work Shop, Levees and Channels Work Group.

Margit Aramburu has attended: Levees and Channels Work Group, Ecosystem Roundtable, Levees and Channels-Subsidence Subcommittee, CALFED Public Affairs Group.

Other Meetings Attended by Staff:

Lori Clamurro attended:

- * Resources Agency's Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee;
- * Canal Ranch/Beaver Slough Habitat Improvement Project (RD 2086) Site Visit;
- * CVPIA Restoration Fund Projects Meeting
- * Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Site Visit
- * Grasslands Bypass Project Oversight Committee
- * San Joaquin Council of Governments Census Data Work Shop

Margit Aramburu attended:

- * Resources' Agency Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee
 - * Packard Foundation Meeting, hosted by Sacramento County
 - * Water Education Foundation's Delta Tour (served as Resource Person for Delta segment).
 - * Delta Levee Road Task Force (hosted by Sacramento County, but now attended by four County representatives).
 - * Delta In-Channel Islands Work Group (contract with CALFED has been signed; working on RFQ for consultants to design project and obtain permits; application for construction phase has been submitted to CALFED)
 - * Meeting with representatives of the Mosquito Abatement Districts regarding regional guidelines for restoration of wetlands.
 - * Meeting with Sacramento County Planning staff regarding planning and permitting issues in the Primary Zone.
 - * Briefing on Agricultural Task Force for Resource Conservation and Economic Growth in the Central Valley (Copy of Executive Summary has been distributed at this meeting).
 - * Site Visit to Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Note that the Pacific Flyway Center Working Group is proposing to build and operate a \$10 million, internationally recognized Center near the Yolo Basin Wetlands. They are pursuing an option on a parcel of land just west of the Bypass.
 - * Contra Costa County LAFCO Meeting regarding proposed City of Oakley.
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Other Items:

New Geodetic Network for Horizontal and Vertical Control for the Delta: The National Geodetic Survey and U.S. Geological Survey prepared a new three dimensional geodetic-control network using G.P.S. technology. In the future, the measurements in the Delta will incorporate this new datum. This process is just starting and staff will keep the Commission apprised.

Big Break: EBRPD has completed internal review of the agreement to be forwarded to the remaining floating duck blind owners in Big Break. In addition, EBRPD has signed an option on the water-covered lands in the western half of Big Break.

Recreation Web Site: California Delta Chambers has started a new Delta web site: <http://www.californiadelta.org>.

Beaver Slough Habitat Improvement Project (RD 2086): This project to create a total of one-half mile of new waterside berms for shaded riverine aquatic habitat has recently been constructed following a three year design, redesign and permitting process. The project includes levee protection with riprap, installation of a second, low riprap berm which includes tree stumps with attached roots, fill with imported earthen material, erosion protection, and planting.

Winter Island Dredge Disposal Project (RD 2122): Winter Island will serve as an upland disposal site for material to be dredged by the Corps of Engineers from Suisun Channel. Winter Island will use the material to bolster its levees and protect the managed wetland habitat on the Island.

CALFED Information: Included in the mailing packets are: (1) a letter from Lester Snow, dated June 30, acknowledging receipt of the Commission's comments on the DEIR; and (2) A Summary, dated June 2, 1998, of the public hearings on the CALFED DEIR. The copy you received in the mail is missing pages; a correct copy has been distributed tonight.

Proposed Incorporation of the City of Oakley: A memo has been enclosed describing the current status of the proposal to incorporate a new city in Contra Costa County. The proposed City of Oakley will be voted on in November. The current proposal would include the existing developed areas and some agricultural lands east of Highway 4, all in the Secondary Zone. In the Primary Zone, the water-covered lands currently owned by East Bay Regional Park District would not be included, and only a 200 foot wide strip of water-covered area would be in the City limits. This is to allow one local government to have permit authority over projects which might be located on land and in the water such as a dock or fishing pier. Until the City prepares and adopts a general plan, the Contra Costa County General Plan would serve as the City's general plan. If the City is adopted, the Delta Protection Commission should ask the Legislature to include a reference to the City of Oakley, or a more general reference to "other cities that may be incorporated" to

the Delta Protection Act of 1992 to address similar situations. Note: City of Oakley will not include Big Break water-covered lands allowing continuation of hunting.

7. Pending Projects Memo.

PAT: The pending projects memo is for Commission information only; are there any questions or comments?

8. Update on State Legislation.

PAT: I gave you an update on SB 1075. Staff prepared two memos; one in your mailing packet and one distributed tonight. Which update the Commission on the status of pending legislation through early this week. Are there any questions or comments for staff? [If YES, call on LORI CALMURRO]

9. Briefing on CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Projects Funded to Date.

PAT: Staff has prepared a memo which describes the nature and location of Ecosystem Restoration projects in the Delta which have been approved by CALFED in 1997 and 1998. At our next meeting, staff will update the Commission on the 1995 and 1996 ecosystem restoration projects which were funding before CALFED took over the grant program. By September, CALFED may have completed review of its most recent round of applications--182 proposals were received, requesting over \$160 million; 37 are located in the Delta and 7 are on East Side Delta tributaries. In addition 17 are "landscape" projects which include the entire Bay Delta watershed.

PAT: Call on MARGIT and LORI

MARGIT: This list and map were compiled by Lori Clamurro to allow the Commissioners to better understand the type of projects being funded by CALFED, to give you a better description of the projects and to map those projects. The staff report includes: A cover memo; a location map; descriptions of each project; and where available, location site maps. Note that the In-Channel Island Project the Commission has supported is described on page 5.

PAT: Ask for Commissioner questions or comments. Comments to forward to CALFED staff? Any PUBLIC comments?

NOTE: For Commission Information Only; NO action is required.

10. Public and Commission Review of Proposed Criteria to be Used to Evaluate CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Projects in the Delta.

PAT: Staff has prepared a master list of information and criteria to be used as guidelines for gathering information to present to the public and the Commission when CALFED staff requests public review of a proposed Ecosystem Restoration project. Public input will be forwarded to CALFED staff, who will work with the project proponents to ensure that valid issues raised at the public meeting will be addressed in the design and construction of proposed projects.

MARGIT: CALFED staff, through Lester Snow, has asked that the Delta Protection Commission serve as a forum for public review of Delta ecosystem restoration projects. The Commission should be reviewing at least one project at its next meeting. In anticipation of bringing projects to the Commission and the public for review and comment, I prepared an outline, or list of topics that should be included in a staff report. I am seeking ideas from the Commission and the public on what level and type of information should be gathered and included in a staff report. This outline was reviewed by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable staff. [Introduce Rebecca Fawver, of the CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable staff]

PAT: Open discussion with Commissioner questions and comments; ask for PUBLIC comments and suggestions. Summarize suggestions; if it seems appropriate as for VOTE for acceptance by Commission as direction to staff
(If vote, need MOTION, SECOND, and VOICE VOTE.)

11. Briefing on Alternative Proposals for CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program in the Delta.

PAT: Call on MARGIT.

MARGIT: As mentioned at the last meeting, a group of Delta “stakeholders” has been working to develop a list of sites suitable and appropriate for restoration and /or enhancement through the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The “stakeholders” include representatives of North, Central and South Delta Water Agencies, Natural Heritage Institute and the Delta Protection Commission staff. The group has been working to develop a list of sites to forward to CALFED’s Bay Delta Advisory Committee and the CALFED staff. The sites would meet the goals of the ERP, and would minimize retirement of productive agricultural lands in the Delta. The sites focus on publicly-owned lands and water covered areas. The memo you have received is a draft of this list of site, and the memo also describes three corridors for riparian restoration and a program to promote wildlife-friendly agriculture. This memo was presented to the CALFED Levees and Channels Work Group yesterday and will be presented to BDAC at its September meeting to be held in Stockton. The Delta group is seeking public and Commission input and suggestions to incorporate into this list.

Introduce: Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency; Greg Thomas, President of the National Heritage Institute; John Cain, Environmental Planner at the National Heritage Institute --who prepared the maps, and Dick Daniel, Ecosystem Restoration Program Coordinator for CALFED.

MARGIT: [Review staff report quickly page by page.]

In terms of numbers, the Legal Delta covers 738, 500 ac, with 61,000 covered with water and 527,300 in ag (these are 1993 numbers from DWR's report on Land Uses in the Delta). The Primary Zone is 491,800 acres, with 51,000 covered with water and 378,000 in agriculture.

The ERPP recommends only 2 types of projects in 61,000 ac water-covered areas: Shoals @ 500 ac and Midchannel Islands @ 200-800 ac.

The ERPP recommends creating 37,000 to 52,000 acres of new tidal areas from the upland areas (527,300 in Legal Delta, but continue to be proposed for 378,000 acres of ag lands in Primary Zone. 52,000 ac is about 14% of Ag land in Primary Zone)

ERPP recommends 58,600 ac of nontidal wetlands from upland areas. Again these are focussed on Ag lands in Primary Zone; 58,600 is about 15% of Ag land in Primary Zone.

Rather than pursue additional ag land retirement in the Primary Zone, the alternative suggestions are to focus on existing water-covered areas from enhancements of aquatic habitat **first**.

Rather than pursue ag land retirement in the Primary Zone, the alternative suggestions are to focus on existing publicly owned lands and lands within the northern boundary of the Stone Lakes Refuge as year-round nontidal wetlands, and work much more extensively with the agricultural land owners and land managers to provide seasonal wetlands associated with "wildlife friendly agriculture" **first**.

PAT: Call on Tom Zuckerman.

PAT: Call on Greg Thomas, of NHI.

PAT: Call on Dick Daniel.

PAT: Ask for Commissioner questions and comments

Ask for Public comments.

Summarize comments (or ask staff to summarize comments.) Remind all to attend upcoming CALFED meetings in the Delta.

12. Commissioner Comments/Announcements.

13. Adjournment.
